

REMARKS

Applicant has filed a Notice of Appeal herewith.

Claims 1, 3-9, 14 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks (5988663) in view of Wu (6612598). The Examiner admits that Starks fails to disclose a second quick release connection between a support and a bicycle accessory. The Examiner states that Wu discloses a support 4 having first and second quick release connections, and it would have been obvious to modify the bicycle accessory device of Starks with the release connections of Wu to allow easy assembly. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claimed invention is not obvious. There is no motivation to modify the bicycle accessory device of Starks in the manner the Examiner contends. Starks relates to a device used to assist a young rider in learning to ride a bicycle 22. A handle 37 is removably attached to a mount 34 of a bracket 32 with a quick connect attachment. When the handle 37 is no longer needed, the handle 37 can be removed from the bracket 32. As the bracket 32 is at the rear of the bicycle 22, the handle 37 is not used to steer the bicycle 22, but is used to balance the bicycle 22. Wu relates to a rear steering device for a tricycle 1. A rear steering bar 4 including a grip 41 is turned to steer the tricycle 1 with a driven member 2, a driving member 3 and a belt 5. Wu relates to problems associated with a rear steering bar used to steer a tricycle. Wu does not relate to balancing a bicycle. As a tricycle 1 has two rear wheels, no balancing feature is needed. There is no motivation to employ the rear steering bar 4 of Wu with the bicycle accessory device of Starks as the problems solved by Roberts provide no benefit to the bicycle accessory device of Starks. That is, problems associated with steering provide no benefit in Starks.

Additionally, neither reference discloses a bicycle accessory device including a first quick release connection between a mount of a bracket and a support and a second quick release connection between a support and a bicycle accessory as claimed. The Examiner admits that Starks does not disclose this feature. However, Wu also does not disclose a quick release connection between a support and a bicycle accessory. Figure 1 shows a rear steering bar 4 and a grip 41. Three dots are shown on the rear steering bar 4. However, Wu does not disclose that these three dots represent a quick release connection. The three dots could be welding, which is not a quick release connection. Therefore, neither reference discloses, suggests or teaches a quick release connection between a support and a bicycle accessory. Therefore, the references taken

together do not disclose, suggest or teach the claimed invention. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Additionally, neither reference discloses a bicycle accessory device including a quick release connection between a support and a bicycle accessory that includes a resilient member as claimed. The Examiner admits that Starks does not disclose this feature. Wu also does not disclose this feature. Wu discloses a rear steering device for a tricycle. As shown in Figure 2, Wu discloses a rear steering bar 4 including a lower end securely attached to a driving member and an upper end on which a grip section 41 is provided (column 2, lines 24 to 20). The Examiner states that the figures shows a quick release connection. However, Wu does not disclose a quick release connection between the rear steering bar 4 and the grip 41 that includes *a resilient member* as claimed. Wu discloses no quick release connection with a resilient member. Wu only shows a plurality of holes at the connection between the rear steering bar 4 and the grip 41. Neither reference discloses a quick release connection between a support and a bicycle accessory that includes a resilient member as claimed, and therefore the references taken together do not teach, suggest or disclose the claimed invention. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

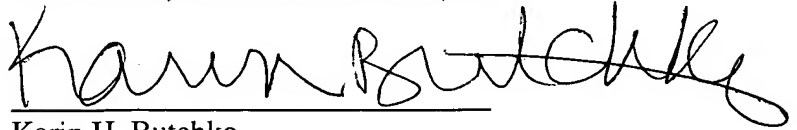
Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks in view of Wu and further in view of Kuo (6398247). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks in view of Wu and further in view of Kirvutza (4157075). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks in view of Wu (6612598) and further in view of Kahmann (6443472). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks in view of Wu and further in view of Long (6149179). Claims 10-13, 15 and 17 depend on patentable independent claim 1 and are allowable for the reasons set forth above. The claimed invention is not obvious because neither of the references disclose, suggest or teach a bicycle accessory device including a quick release connection between a support and a bicycle accessory that includes a resilient member. Therefore, the references taken together do not disclose, suggest or teach the claimed invention. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees

or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

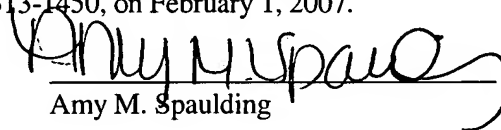


Karin H. Butchko
Registration No. 45,864
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
Telephone: (248) 988-8360
Facsimile: (248) 988-8363

Dated: February 1, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Request for Reconsideration is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 1, 2007.


Amy M. Spaulding